

REMARKS

This Amendment is being submitted in response to the Office Action mailed November 18, 2004, relating to the above-identified application. Applicants respectfully traverse and request reexamination and reconsideration. Claims 1-34 remain pending.

I. Summary of the Examiner's Rejections and Objections

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-25, and 29-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Greenberg, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,352) in view of *Perlman* (U.S. Patent No. 6,169,879).

Claims 6, 15, and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Applicants' Response to the Examiner's Rejections

Applicants have amended the claims based on the Examiner's recommendations and prior telephone interviews with the Examiner to place this application in condition for allowance. Please note, Applicants disagree to the Examiner's allegations with respect to his decision to vacate his agreement reached with Applicants' counsel. Applicants remain convinced that *Greenberg, et al.*, *Perlman*, or any combination thereof fails to disclose, teach or suggest, either implicitly or explicitly, each and every element of Applicants' subject matter as originally filed. Applicants' arguments fully in support thereof and explicit requests for a showing have been well documented in the prosecution history of this application, yet remain unaddressed. However, in an effort to bring conclusion to this application which has been pending for nearly four years, Applicants have now placed the claims as amended in condition for allowance.

III. Allowable Subject Matter and New Claims

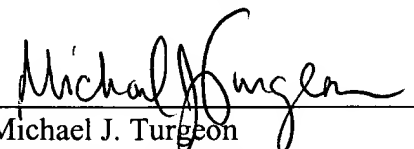
The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that the invention as defined in claims 26-28 are allowable over the art of record, and that the invention as defined in claims 6, 15 and 34 would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 1-34 are now in proper condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0441 or any payment in connection with this communication, including any fees for extension of time, which may be required. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if such action might expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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